THE REVELATION TO JOHN

REVELATION

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To God's Honor and Praise

We know that no Bible translation is perfect; but we also know that God uses imperfect and inadequate things to his honor and praise. So to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and to his people—we offer what we have done, with our prayers that it may prove useful, with gratitude for much help given, and with ongoing wonder that our God should ever have entrusted to us so momentous a task.

Soli Deo Gloria!—To God alone be the glory!
The Translation Oversight Committee

"Our whole life is an Advent season, that is, a season of waiting for the last Advent, for the time when there will be a new heaven and new earth"
-Dietrich Bonhoeffer

- Surveys show Revelation is the book People want to hear taught and preachers don't want to teach
- The title of the book has no "s" at the end of it. A singular Revelation.
- "You can summarize its message in one sentence: God rules history and will bring it to consumation in Christ" - Vern Poythress
- You don't need to understand every detail to profit spiritually
- There are patterns you'll discover as you read it as a whole that you don't get from reading portions
- Revelation is the most beautiful letter in the New Testament
- "In many ways, Revelation is the most practical book of the entire New Testament, since it is specifically written to Christians who live in the post-apostolic age. This means that the symbols and visions we find here are meant for us" - Kim Riddlebarger '77 (CSUF bus. grad)
- Reactions to Revelation:
  - fear
  - marginalization
  - sensationalism
- Difficulties are the apocalyptic genre and lack of familiarity with O.T. (500 allusions to O.T. - most Psalms, Isaiah, Ezekiel and Daniel)

How this Letter Came to Us:

Father
↓
Son
↓
Angel
↓
John

· Writing at the end of the First Century. Only apostle to live that long.

THE

REVELATION

TO JOHN

There is a pattern in the prologue that is a key to the rest of the book: the number three

John is introducing the letter and the rythmn

Prologue

1 The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, 2 who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. 3 Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.

- God gave
- The Son made known
- John bore witness

Jesus

In Revelation, servants are always believers

urgency of Revelation. The things he talks about are already underway.

Revelation is Scripture

Greeting to the Seven Churches

4 John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

Grace is Gentile greeting, peace is Jewish greeting

infallibility

three things Jesus did for us

Son's love for us

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood 6 and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. 7 Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

priesthood of all believers I Peter 2:9

first to rise, we will be resurrected like Him I Cor. 15:57

Why He is worthy of worship

Christ's coming won't be secret and the final judgment will be global

· Daniel contains the most references in proportion to its length, with most references in Daniel 7.
· But in terms of actual number of references, Isaiah comes first
· The types of literature were least likely to be familiar with are what we find in Revelation
· When you see symbols, look for places where John tells you what they mean. If John doesn't tell you, go back to Old Testament
· Number seven is important - number of completeness. Complete judgment, complete victory, complete glory, etc.
· Number three is most important: represents the Triune God and counterfeit of God: Dragon, beast and false prophet
· Number four represents God's creation (i.e. four living creatures)
· Number 12 is another number of completeness - complete people of God (tribes, apostles, etc.)
· 144,000 means 12 x 12 x 1,000
· John's culture had 1,000 as the top number (no millions or billions)
· Approaches:
  - Preterist — everything 1st century, growing in popularity, early dated under Nero, makes it irrelevent

8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who
is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Vision of the Son of Man this tribulation is already occurring

9 I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the
kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on
the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the
testimony of Jesus. 10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and
I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet 11 saying, "Write
what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to
Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and
to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

the place of worship →

12 Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and
on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and in the midst of
the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe
and with a golden sash around his chest. 14 The hairs of his head
were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame
of fire, 15 his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace,
and his voice was like the roar of many waters. 16 In his right hand
he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged
sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

Jesus is not like God, He is God

Our worship is shaped by what we know of Christ

17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he
laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and
the last, 18 and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive
forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. 19 Write
therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and
those that are to take place after this. 20 As for the mystery of
the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven
golden lampstands, the seven stars are the angels of the seven
churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

← important verse

- Historicist — Outline of church history. Proposes seven dispensations in church history. Question is where are we now
- Futurist — Most common. Chap. 4 and one is future. Which is why most churches only teach first three chapters. Makes everything irrelevent to all but last generation.
- idealist — Fills God's people with comfort. Stresses principles. But why should we have hope?
- modified idealist — Idealist approach with understanding that the book does tell us what happens at end of age.

- Two main approaches to eschatology: premillennial - millennium in chronological order after Jesus comes; or recapitulation - Rev. 20 a different camera angle of same thing
- "Revelation is clear. We have trouble when we approach it from the wrong end. Focus on the big picture not the details" - Vern Poythress
- The Book of Revelation is about encouraging God's people amidst despair and disaster

To the Church in Ephesus

2 "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: 'The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands.

2 "'I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. 3 I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary. 4 But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. 6 Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.'

To the Church in Smyrna

8 "And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: 'The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life.

9 "'I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. 10 Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. 11 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.'

The focus on Jesus' return increases in intensity throughout the Seven Churches

Historicist View of the Seven Churches
- Ephesus (33-100 A.D.) - apostolic age
- Smyrna (100-313 A.D.) - 10 waves of Roman persecution
- Pergamum (313-600s A.D.)
- Thyatira (600s-1517 A.D.) - Medieval church
- Sardis (1517-1750 A.D.) - Reformation era
- Philadelphia (1750-1900 A.D.) - Missionary era
- Laodecia (1900 - Christ's return)

in some way around at Christ's return

Weaknesses:
- Eurocentric
- Abused by Protestants and Catholics to put down other movement
- Not clear from text

v. 4 - Love for Jesus most important
v. 6 - Nicolaitans - nico - to conquer and laos - the people or laity

v. 10 - 10 Days of Persecution May Be...
- Nero (64-68)
- Domitian (90-96)
- Trajan (98-117)
- Hadrian (117-138)
- Marcus Aurelius (161-180)
- Septimus Severus (202-211)
- Maximinus Thrax (235-236)
- Decius (249-251)
- Valerian (257-260)
- Diocletian (303-311)

To the Church in Pergamum

12 "And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: 'The
words of him who has the sharp two-edged sword.
13 "'I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. Yet
you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith even in
the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among
you, where Satan dwells. 14 But I have a few things against you:
you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who
taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel,
so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sex-
ual immorality. 15 So also you have some who hold the teach-
ing of the Nicolaitans. 16 Therefore repent. If not, I will come to
you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth.
17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the
churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hid-
den manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name
written on the stone that no one knows except the one who
receives it.'

To the Church in Thyatira

18 "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: 'The
words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and
whose feet are like burnished bronze.
19 "'I know your works, your love and faith and service
and patient endurance, and that your latter works exceed
the first. 20 But I have this against you, that you tolerate that
woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess and is teaching
and seducing my servants to practice sexual immorality and
to eat food sacrificed to idols. 21 I gave her time to repent, but
she refuses to repent of her sexual immorality. 22 Behold, I will

only time this appears in Revelation

looks at intentions

particularly important for this church service-oriented

not a real prophetess

a microcosm of the world as a whole

V. 13 – The Pergamon Altar was relocated to Berlin, where it figured strongly in Hitler's regime and Communist East Germany

- Sometimes churches are eradicated. Other times they compromise. Compromise can take different forms.
  - refusal to preach the whole Gospel to the whole world
  - incorporating false teaching
  - failing to confront and discipline sin
  - embracing sinful aspects of the culture

- The church in Thyatira did not experience direct persecution but indirect persecution leading to compromise
- Thyatira is the longest of the seven letters
- This is a disturbing letter in terms of what come into this church and Christ's response
- Thyatira was founded by Lydia
- Geographically, we are making the circuit on a postal route, and this is the first move southeast (45 mi. from Pergamon)
- You could cut across from Smyrna to Sardis through Thyatira
- There was emperor worship in Thyatira

throw her onto a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her I will throw into great tribulation, unless they repent of her works, [23] and I will strike her children dead. And all the churches will know that I am he who searches mind and heart, and I will give to each of you according to your works. [24] But to the rest of you in Thyatira, who do not hold this teaching, who have not learned what some call the deep things of Satan, to you I say, I do not lay on you any other burden. [25] Only hold fast what you have until I come. [26] The one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations, [27] and he will rule them with a rod of iron, as when earthen pots are broken in pieces, even as I myself have received authority from my Father. [28] And I will give him the morning star. [29] He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

two things happen when Jesus is mentioned: - pointing back to Rev. 1 - mentioning a particular aspect relating to the judgment on that church

interesting that it's not word

not a typical trinitarian language for Sardis. Temple imagery.

To the Church in Sardis

3 "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: 'The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.

first church with no good works →

"'I know your works. You have the reputation of being alive, but you are dead. [2] Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of my God. [3] Remember, then, what you received and heard. Keep it, and repent. If you will not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come against you. [4] Yet you have still a few names in Sardis, people who have not soiled their garments, and they will walk with me in white, for they are worthy. [5] The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my

not no works but incomplete works - incomplete Gospel

like Matt. 24 thief in the night always refers to Second Coming

only time in Revelation used for God's followers

always speaks of purity of God's people

is everyone initially in the Book of Life? Compare with Psalms

Everywhere Paul went there was either a revival, a revolt or both

Four Things to Understand About Thyatira
1. if you wanted to work in the trades, you had to belong to the guilds
2. idolatry very prominent - feasts put on by guilds

Churches lose their lampstand when they refuse to preach the Gospel

Imagery throughout the letter to Thyatira points back to Ahab and Jezebel story (Elijah's time)

v. 23 - her children are those indirectly influenced by her and engaging in the unscriptural practice

Idolatry and sexual immorality is why God's people went into captivity in Old Testament

Church in Sardis - what does it look like to have a reputation for spiritual life but not actually have it

Sardis 50 miles east of Smyrna and was capital of kingdom of Lydia before falling to Cyrus. The two cities condemned most harshly are uninhabited today. Sardis and Laodecia. Sardis had never been taken in battle but twice taken under cover of darkness. Sardis had a large Jewish community (upscale). Christians could blend in.

Name in v. 1 vs. names in v. 4 - reputation vs. reality

Father and before his angels. [6] He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

To the Church in Philadelphia

[7] "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: 'The words of the holy one, the true one, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, who shuts and no one opens.

[8] "'I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. [9] Behold, I will make those of the synagogue of Satan who say that they are Jews and are not, but lie—behold, I will make them come and bow down before your feet, and they will learn that I have loved you. [10] Because you have kept my word about patient endurance, I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth. [11] I am coming soon. Hold fast what you have, so that no one may seize your crown. [12] The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God. Never shall he go out of it, and I will write on him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem, which comes down from my God out of heaven, and my own new name. [13] He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

To the Church in Laodicea

[14] "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: 'The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation.

[15] "'I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! [16] So, because you are

- believers are invited to a spiritual response different from their city
- there is always a tendency for sin to spread like yeast
- our natural tendency is to always move away from the fullness of the Gospel
- repentance is the battle cry of every Christian

Why We Need to Heed the Warning to Sardis

1. We all want to be accepted by our culture
2. We live in a culture offended by the Gospel and the whole counsel of God
3. We can apply this to how we raise our children (greatest need on inside not outside)

- We should be wary when all men speak well of us and when all men speak evil of us (balance)
- Faithfully and winsomely share the Gospel

V. 10 - The clearest Scripture suggesting a pre-Tribulation rapture

Church in Laodicea - letter is best known of seven churches. But the verses we know are usually out of context.
- A house call for a sin-sick church - presented in almost medical terms
- The Amen, this is God's last word (no one after Jesus)
- v. 14 - The beginning of God's creation - creationism; Col. 1:15-20; God as creator is an important concept for Laodicea

lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my
mouth. [17] For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need
nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor,
blind, and naked. [18] I counsel you to buy from me gold refined
by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that
you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may
not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see.
[19] Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and
repent. [20] Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears
my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with
him, and he with me. [21] The one who conquers, I will grant him
to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down
with my Father on his throne. [22] He who has an ear, let him hear
what the Spirit says to the churches.'"

The language of child rearing and sonship

phileo not agape John uses phileo a lot interchangably

The Throne in Heaven

4 After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in
heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to
me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you
what must take place after this." [2] At once I was in the Spirit,
and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the
throne. [3] And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and
carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the
appearance of an emerald. [4] Around the throne were twenty-
four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders,
clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads.
[5] From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and
peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven
torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God, [6] and before
the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal.

after church age?

- The physician is Jesus. The diagnosis is vomit-inducing lukewarmness. Symptoms are materialism and self-sufficienc No need for God. The cure is to be connected to source.
- Laodicea isn't being told to be against Jesus in being cold. Laodicea didn't have its own water. Colassae was the source of cold drinking water (six miles away). Hieropolis (11 miles away) had medicinal heated water. Not good for refreshment or healing. Problem is distance from the source.

- In AD 60, Laodicea refused aid from Rome's version of FEMA.
- v. 20 - he with me - Divine election AND free will together
- Letter to Laodicea most applicable to modern America
  - We evaluate our worship on whether it aligns with what God says worship should be like

In Revelation 4, John goes from looking at churches to Heaven. From earthly issues to issues we cannot comprehend. By changing perspectives, he reminds us there is a realm beyond what we see and it should change how we endure.

What we see:
- The sovreign God seated on the throne of all thrones - gives hope
- The eternal God who lives forever and ever
- The end is not in doubt
- God's people will prevail - a spiritual people not geopolitical

And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: [7] the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. [8] And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say,

"Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come!"

[9] And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, [10] the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

creationist perspective

"Worthy are you, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power, another triplet
for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created."

The Scroll and the Lamb

5 Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. [2] And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" [3] And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth three again was able to open the scroll or to look into it, [4] and I began to

- God's kingdom is not in jeopardy
- Whatever you face in the here and now is not the end of the story
- God as the Creator (that's why He is worthy)
- Everything belongs to God
- The interplay between the living creatures and 24 elders (four speaks of earth in totality - different directions - throughout the earth. Psalm 19. Every living creature screams the glory of God. 24 elders represent the unity of God's people across time. 12x2 - O.T. and N.T.)
- Worship is not a new thing (Hebrews 11)
- The synergy of worship on Heaven and earth
- God's faithfulness to reward those who endure. Those who overcame in Rev. 2 and 3 honored
- The insignificance of rewards in light of God's glory
- It is by His grace you endured
- Point to the ultimate end, reality, place and purpose of every believer - worshipping God
- Change of perspective results in change of response

The lion brings justice and vengeance and the lamb gives redemption. There is no hint of inconsistency between these two.

weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. 5 And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals."

6 And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. 7 And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. 8 And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song, saying,

not elsewhere in Scripture. Different songs in Heaven

Powerful verses

"Worthy are you to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
10 and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,
and they shall reign on the earth."

number four - completion on earth

this would be a verse in favor of premillennialism

God uses us here on earth

11 Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice,

A number of interpertations of the scroll
- Lamb's Book of Life
- Future Great Tribulation (futurist view)
- The fullness of God's plan of judgment and redemption (Daniel 7 and Ezekiel 2)
- Harkens to the seals in Roman courtrooms for last wills and testaments. A will is only given after a death (the cross)

Judgment, redemption and inheritance

"John is weeping because history will not be ordered in the benefit of the church. No new heaven and earth. No consummation" - Hendricksen

v. 5 - Two references to Christ - Gen. 49: 8 (Judah) and Isaiah 11. 1-5 (David)

You cannot understand the redemption of Christ if you don't understand the judgment of the wicked

The judgment of God is why we don't avenge ourselves. The belief in God's ultimate judgment of the wicked is the only thing that keeps us from barbaric retribution in the here and now.

The last Adam is worthy to execute the will. Jesus is not one of the living creatures or elders - proves deity of Christ.

Christ inherited the promise made for the first Adam

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and
might
and honor and glory and blessing!"

13 And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under
the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying,

"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever
and ever!"

14 And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell
down and worshiped.

The Seven Seals

6 Now I watched when the Lamb opened one of the seven
seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures say with a
voice like thunder, "Come!" 2 And I looked, and behold, a white
horse! And its rider had a bow, and a crown was given to him,
and he came out conquering, and to conquer.

3 When he opened the second seal, I heard the second liv-
ing creature say, "Come!" 4 And out came another horse, bright
red. Its rider was permitted to take peace from the earth, so
that people should slay one another, and he was given a
great sword.

5 When he opened the third seal, I heard the third living
creature say, "Come!" And I looked, and behold, a black horse!
And its rider had a pair of scales in his hand. 6 And I heard what
seemed to be a voice in the midst of the four living creatures,

- Christ is worthy to take the scroll and is worthy of worship because He died and rose again (proves He was sinless substitute)
- Horns represent authority. Seven is complete - Jesus has complete authority. Antichrist has seven horns in Daniel 7 but can't hold on to them
- Seven eyes - complete omniscience
- God's kingdom on earth even here and now as God redeems and transforms people

Chapter 6

- Four horsemen also in Zechariah
- White horse - conquest
  - dispensationalists think Antichrist, amilleniolists think Jesus Christ
- Red horse - slaughter
- Black horse - famine in the midst of plenty
- Pale horse - death. The fourth who die may be in a future catastrophe or a fourth of mankind killed in disasters throughout history
- Beasts of the earth - pestilences and pandemics generally caused by animals. Mosquitoes deadliest animal on earth

saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius, and do not harm the oil and wine!"

7 When he opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature say, "Come!" 8 And I looked, and behold, a pale horse! And its rider's name was Death, and Hades followed him. And they were given authority over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by wild beasts of the earth.

9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. 10 They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" 11 Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.

12 When he opened the sixth seal, I looked, and behold, there was a great earthquake, and the sun became black as sackcloth, the full moon became like blood, 13 and the stars of the sky fell to the earth as the fig tree sheds its winter fruit when shaken by a gale. 14 The sky vanished like a scroll that is being rolled up, and every mountain and island was removed from its place. 15 Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, 16 calling to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, 17 for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"

The question we have to ask when we understand Rev 6

- a denarius is a day's wage
- many view verse 12 as the beginning of the final judgment. Hasn't happened yet
- verbiage is v. 12-17 corresponds with final judgment passages in Olivet Discourse and Old Testament
- do asteroids hit the earth at the end? John Piper suggests as a possibility
- interesting thought:
  - many scientists believe Noah's flood was caused by as asteroid
  - if there was a judgment before man, it was an asteroid (Chicxulub Crater)
  - history repeats itself? II Peter 2 and Jude are interesting parallels
  - many now think Sodom and Gomorrah a meteor or asteroid

v. 17 - their wrath - trinity

In general, we live in a culture that rejects a wrathful God. But when atrocities happen, we believe in evil and judgment again.

All the things we see in Revelation 6 are things we see in an ongoing basis but there is a coming final day of Judgmen

The 144,000 of Israel Sealed This passage comes at an awkward time

7 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, that no wind might blow on earth or sea or against any tree. 2 Then I saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, 3 saying, "Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads." 4 And I heard the number of the sealed, 144,000, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:

God knows whom He seals. He doesn't wait for people to seal themselves

Note contrast between being sealed and being marked

5 12,000 from the tribe of Judah were sealed,
12,000 from the tribe of Reuben,
12,000 from the tribe of Gad,
6 12,000 from the tribe of Asher,
12,000 from the tribe of Naphtali,
12,000 from the tribe of Manasseh,
7 12,000 from the tribe of Simeon,
12,000 from the tribe of Levi,
12,000 from the tribe of Issachar,
8 12,000 from the tribe of Zebulun,
12,000 from the tribe of Joseph,
12,000 from the tribe of Benjamin were sealed.

John goes back and forth between seeing and hearing

Mix of tribes and sons

The promise in the Abrahamic covenant (Gen. 12) extends to every nation on earth. Promise originally made to Abraham (ethnic Israel)

Is John making one statement about one group of people?

A Great Multitude from Every Nation

9 After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their

four descriptors - the Gospel will reach four corners of the earth

The church is more diverse than we can imagine

The church did not advance in this way in John's day. John did not live in a time of millions of Christians. We should be optimistic about the reach of the Gospel when we read this. It's a larger number than the world's population in John's day.

Chapter 7 v. 1 - no theologian in church history has taught a flat earth

The question of "who can stand?" at the end of Chapter 6 is answered in Chapter 7. Can't be chronological - fill in info.

12 is the number of the people of God. 12 x 12 x 1,000 is 144,000.

The rendering of the 12 tribes here is not mentioned anywhere else in Scripture. Dan missing because of idolatry. Judah is preeminent because of Messiah.

v. 9 suggests 144,000 as a symbolic number. Also from all over the earth. Not just Hebrew

We worship when we get to Heaven because we don't get there ourselves

Views of the 144,000
- The cults think this is the number of people who will end up in Heaven
- A remnant of Israel saved and sealed after the Rapture (emphasis on two separate peoples)
- Linked to all Israel being saved in Romans 11 (but would still be a symbolic number)
- Remnant of ethnic Jews in First Century
- Figurative of the people of God throughout history

hands, [10] and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to
our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" [11] And all the
angels were standing around the throne and around the elders
and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before
the throne and worshiped God, [12] saying, "Amen! Blessing and
glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and
might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Seven things

[13] Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are
these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?"
[14] I said to him, "Sir, you know." And he said to me, "These are
the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed
their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

John's humility, looks to the author for answers. John didn't speculate

not your own righteousness

[15] "Therefore they are before the throne of God,
and serve him day and night in his temple;
and he who sits on the throne will shelter them
with his presence.
[16] They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;
the sun shall not strike them,
nor any scorching heat.
[17] For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be
their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of living
water,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

The Seventh Seal and the Golden Censer

8 When the Lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence
in heaven for about half an hour. [2] Then I saw the seven
angels who stand before God, and seven trumpets were given

- there is a familiar promise here
- if Jewish, this would be the only place where servants of God are an ethnicity

v. 12 - Sevenfold doxology - we'll offer perfect praise in Heaven

v. 14 - John doesn't know who these people are, which is why dispensationalists separate tribulation saints

v. 16 - very earthly needs are being met. The wealthy have nicer homes, nicer food, etc. but it serves the same needs

v. 17 - every tear speaks of every type of trouble and tragedy. Too many to list.

God the Father is the only one who can be our shelter, God the Son is the only one who can be our shepherd.

- Revelation 14 seems to reference 144,000 as broader than Israel

- Diversity of the body of Christ is one area where American Christians have an advantage of understanding God's plan
- John could have taken the individual Hall of Faith approach in Hebrews 11 to answer who can stand. Instead he looks at a common identity.

to them. 3 And another angel came and stood at the altar with a
golden censer, and he was given much incense to offer with the
prayers of all the saints on the golden altar before the throne,
4 and the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints,
rose before God from the hand of the angel. 5 Then the angel
took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw
it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings,
flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.

The Seven Trumpets

6 Now the seven angels who had the seven trumpets pre-
pared to blow them.

7 The first angel blew his trumpet, and there followed hail
and fire, mixed with blood, and these were thrown upon the
earth. And a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of
the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

8 The second angel blew his trumpet, and something like
a great mountain, burning with fire, was thrown into the sea,
and a third of the sea became blood. 9 A third of the living crea-
tures in the sea died, and a third of the ships were destroyed.

10 The third angel blew his trumpet, and a great star fell from
heaven, blazing like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and
on the springs of water. 11 The name of the star is Wormwood.
A third of the waters became wormwood, and many people died
from the water, because it had been made bitter.

12 The fourth angel blew his trumpet, and a third of the sun
was struck, and a third of the moon, and a third of the stars,
so that a third of their light might be darkened, and a third
of the day might be kept from shining, and likewise a third of
the night.

WHAT MARKS THE GREAT TRIBULATION
- Violent men
- Wars and rumors of war
- Famine
- Disease
- Martyrdom
- Natural disasters

Each person experiences different aspects of the Tribulation

More people died for Christ in the 20th Century than all other centuries combined

Revelation 6 is not the worst of nature or the worst of man. It is under God's control judging a sinful world.

"God forbid that a family would survive an earthquake, hurricane or tornado only to face judgment on the last day"
- Voddie Baucham

Chapters 8-9 are a retelling and intensification on God's judgment

13 Then I looked, and I heard an eagle crying with a loud
voice as it flew directly overhead, "Woe, woe, woe to those who
dwell on the earth, at the blasts of the other trumpets that the
three angels are about to blow!"

9 And the fifth angel blew his trumpet, and I saw a star
fallen from heaven to earth, and he was given the key to
the shaft of the bottomless pit. 2 He opened the shaft of the
bottomless pit, and from the shaft rose smoke like the smoke
of a great furnace, and the sun and the air were darkened with
the smoke from the shaft. 3 Then from the smoke came locusts
on the earth, and they were given power like the power of scor-
pions of the earth. 4 They were told not to harm the grass of
the earth or any green plant or any tree, but only those peo-
ple who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. 5 They
were allowed to torment them for five months, but not to kill
them, and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion
when it stings someone. 6 And in those days people will seek
death and will not find it. They will long to die, but death will
flee from them.

7 In appearance the locusts were like horses prepared for
battle: on their heads were what looked like crowns of gold;
their faces were like human faces, 8 their hair like women's hair,
and their teeth like lions' teeth; 9 they had breastplates like
breastplates of iron, and the noise of their wings was like the
noise of many chariots with horses rushing into battle. 10 They
have tails and stings like scorpions, and their power to hurt
people for five months is in their tails. 11 They have as king over
them the angel of the bottomless pit. His name in Hebrew is
Abaddon, and in Greek he is called Apollyon.

12 The first woe has passed; behold, two woes are still to come.

The Fifth Trumpet: Locusts
- Imagery from Exodus 10 (10 plagues) and Joel 2, where a literal locust plague in Ancient Israel foreshadows this divine judgment

Intensification from Trumpets to Bowls

Trumpets	Bowls
1/3 of land	All land
1/3 of sea	All sea
1/3 of heavenly bodies	The sun

Speaks of the intensification as we near the Second Coming

A normal locust swarm lasts a few days. Five months would symbolize an extensive and intense judgment. Apollyon and Abaddon both mean destroyer and both names are derived from the Greek god Apollo.

13 Then the sixth angel blew his trumpet, and I heard a
voice from the four horns of the golden altar before God,
14 saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the
four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." 15 So
the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour, the day,
the month, and the year, were released to kill a third of man-
kind. 16 The number of mounted troops was twice ten thou-
sand times ten thousand; I heard their number. 17 And this is
how I saw the horses in my vision and those who rode them:
they wore breastplates the color of fire and of sapphire and
of sulfur, and the heads of the horses were like lions' heads,
and fire and smoke and sulfur came out of their mouths. 18 By
these three plagues a third of mankind was killed, by the fire
and smoke and sulfur coming out of their mouths. 19 For the
power of the horses is in their mouths and in their tails, for
their tails are like serpents with heads, and by means of them
they wound.

20 The rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues,
did not repent of the works of their hands nor give up wor-
shiping demons and idols of gold and silver and bronze and
stone and wood, which cannot see or hear or walk, 21 nor did
they repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual
immorality or their thefts.

The Angel and the Little Scroll

10 Then I saw another mighty angel coming down from
heaven, wrapped in a cloud, with a rainbow over his
head, and his face was like the sun, and his legs like pillars of
fire. 2 He had a little scroll open in his hand. And he set his right
foot on the sea, and his left foot on the land, 3 and called out

v. 13-19- In the Roman Empire, the kings of the east were the Parthians. In today's times, it is interesting that the nations of Asia alone can muster armies of hundreds of millions. Throughout history, we learn that anti-God systems often face military defeat (examples: Ancient Babylon, Ancient Rome, Hitler's Third Reich, ect.)

In the 19th century, the Turks were believed to be the kings of the east. In the early 20th century, Japan was suspected. Now, China. To ancient sources, Iraq and Iran would be in view.

v. 20-21- The sins of the end times
- idolatry (materialism)
- the occult
- murder
- Pharmakeia - drug abuse
- sexual sins
- thefts

These are the sins we see in society today

Revelation 10: 1-11 has parallels in Daniel 10: 5-6 and Ezekiel 2-3. Some believe the little scroll contains the message of the remainder of the book.

with a loud voice, like a lion roaring. When he called out, the seven thunders sounded. 4 And when the seven thunders had sounded, I was about to write, but I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Seal up what the seven thunders have said, and do not write it down." 5 And the angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven 6 and swore by him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and what is in it, the earth and what is in it, and the sea and what is in it, that there would be no more delay, 7 but that in the days of the trumpet call to be sounded by the seventh angel, the mystery of God would be fulfilled, just as he announced to his servants the prophets.

8 Then the voice that I had heard from heaven spoke to me again, saying, "Go, take the scroll that is open in the hand of the angel who is standing on the sea and on the land." 9 So I went to the angel and told him to give me the little scroll. And he said to me, "Take and eat it; it will make your stomach bitter, but in your mouth it will be sweet as honey." 10 And I took the little scroll from the hand of the angel and ate it. It was sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it my stomach was made bitter. 11 And I was told, "You must again prophesy about many peoples and nations and languages and kings."

The Two Witnesses

11 Then I was given a measuring rod like a staff, and I was told, "Rise and measure the temple of God and the altar and those who worship there, 2 but do not measure the court outside the temple; leave that out, for it is given over to the nations, and they will trample the holy city for forty-two

v. 6 - no more delay means the Seventh Trumpet is the consummation of God's plan - the Second Coming.

Eating the scroll is an experience John shares with Ezekiel. It means he is commissioned to prophesy to an unrepentent world. The sourness speaks of the news of great suffering, yet it is sweet as honey - the positive aspects for the believer.

months. [3] And I will grant authority to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth."

[4] These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth. [5] And if anyone would harm them, fire pours from their mouth and consumes their foes. If anyone would harm them, this is how he is doomed to be killed. [6] They have the power to shut the sky, that no rain may fall during the days of their prophesying, and they have power over the waters to turn them into blood and to strike the earth with every kind of plague, as often as they desire. [7] And when they have finished their testimony, the beast that rises from the bottomless pit will make war on them and conquer them and kill them, [8] and their dead bodies will lie in the street of the great city that symbolically is called Sodom and Egypt, where their Lord was crucified. [9] For three and a half days some from the peoples and tribes and languages and nations will gaze at their dead bodies and refuse to let them be placed in a tomb, [10] and those who dwell on the earth will rejoice over them and make merry and exchange presents, because these two prophets had been a torment to those who dwell on the earth. [11] But after the three and a half days a breath of life from God entered them, and they stood up on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. [12] Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here!" And they went up to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies watched them. [13] And at that hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. Seven thousand people were killed in the earthquake, and the rest were terrified and gave glory to the God of heaven.

[14] The second woe has passed; behold, the third woe is soon to come.

THE TWO WITNESSES
- Moses and Elijah are O.T. types
- The Orthodox Jews believe Elijah is still to come and some early church fathers taught this literally
- The two witnesses are an example for all Christians to follow
- This vision may have multiple applications, including the Roman persecutions and the final crisis before Christ comes
- Sodom represents immorality, while Egypt speaks of bondage
- v. 9 and 11 speak of 3½ days, a much shorter period than the 3½ years of prophecy. It may speak of the final crisis when the church will seem to be defeated for a short time (see Rev. 20)

The trampling of the city for 42 months has sometimes been associated with 70 A.D. The big challenge with tying 70 A.D. to prophetic passages is that the details are different and the promised deliverance did not occur at that time.

The Seventh Trumpet

15 Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were
loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has
become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall
reign forever and ever." 16 And the twenty-four elders who sit
on their thrones before God fell on their faces and worshiped
God, 17 saying,

"We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty,
who is and who was,
for you have taken your great power
and begun to reign.
18 The nations raged,
but your wrath came,
and the time for the dead to be judged,
and for rewarding your servants, the prophets and
saints,
and those who fear your name,
both small and great,
and for destroying the destroyers of the earth."

19 Then God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of
his covenant was seen within his temple. There were flashes
of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, an earthquake, and
heavy hail.

The Woman and the Dragon

12 And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed
with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her
head a crown of twelve stars. 2 She was pregnant and was crying

In the early modern period, the day for a year interpertive was popular, so 1,260 days would be 1,260 years. Isaac Newton believed this and Seventh Day Adventists do today. This approach is related to historicism. For futurists, this is where the 3½ year Great Tribulation is calculated and was the view of many church fathers. Quite possibly there are multiple applications throughout the church age.

out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. 3 And another
sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven
heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. 4 His tail
swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the
earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about
to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour
it. 5 She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the
nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God
and to his throne, 6 and the woman fled into the wilderness,
where she has a place prepared by God, in which she is to be
nourished for 1,260 days.

Satan Thrown Down to Earth

7 Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fight-
ing against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought
back, 8 but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place
for them in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was thrown down,
that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the
deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the
earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. 10 And I
heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation and
the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of
his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been
thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our
God. 11 And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their
lives even unto death. 12 Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you
who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the
devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows
that his time is short!"

v. 4 - This has led to speculation that a third of the angels followed Satan in his rebellion

Satan attempted to attack Israel before Christ came:
- the famine in Joseph's time
- destruction of Male children in Moses' time
- compromise and peril in the wilderness
- compromise in the time of Judges and the kings
- the plot of Haman in Esther's Day
- the persecution of Antiochus Epiphanes

In Jesus' experience, Satan attempted to stop God's work through Herod, the temptation in the wilderness, and numerous other times when Christ's hour had not yet come

It appears until the cross, Satan had access to Heaven (example: Job 1:6). This access has been curtailed.

Why is there a spiritual battle? Because there is a banner over us that identifies us as a foe of the world's system

13 And when the dragon saw that he had been thrown down
to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to
the male child. 14 But the woman was given the two wings of
the great eagle so that she might fly from the serpent into the
wilderness, to the place where she is to be nourished for a time,
and times, and half a time. 15 The serpent poured water like a
river out of his mouth after the woman, to sweep her away with
a flood. 16 But the earth came to the help of the woman, and
the earth opened its mouth and swallowed the river that the
dragon had poured from his mouth. 17 Then the dragon became
furious with the woman and went off to make war on the rest
of her offspring, on those who keep the commandments of
God and hold to the testimony of Jesus. And he stood on the
sand of the sea.

The First Beast

13 And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns
and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and
blasphemous names on its heads. 2 And the beast that I saw was
like a leopard; its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like
a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his
throne and great authority. 3 One of its heads seemed to have
a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the
whole earth marveled as they followed the beast. 4 And they
worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the
beast, and they worshiped the beast, saying, "Who is like the
beast, and who can fight against it?"

5 And the beast was given a mouth uttering haughty and
blasphemous words, and it was allowed to exercise authority for
forty-two months. 6 It opened its mouth to utter blasphemies

blasphemy is lies about God

Revelation 13 is perhaps the most in-depth discussion of Antichrist in the New Testament. In John's day, the Beast was the Roman Empire and the Mark of the Beast was the requirement for emperor worship. But there are later fulfillments, including at end of age. Early Church Fathers believed in a literal 3½ year reign of a final Antichrist. Amillennialists tend to view symbolically.

Daniel 7 is a good reference with Rev. 13

JUXTAPOSITION BETWEEN 13 AND 14

Chapter 13 v. 11 has a false lamb.
Chapter 14 v. 1 has the true lamb.

Chapter 13 v. 11, the false lamb comes out of the earth. In Chap. 14 the true lamb is on Mt. Zion.

Chap. 13: 18 is the beast's number and everyone is enslaved. In Chap. 14, all are redeemed.

In Chap. 13; 17 there is the Mark of the Beast. In 14:1, there is the name of the Lamb and His father.

The deception in Rev. 13 is contrasted with no lie in 14:5

against God, blaspheming his name and his dwelling, that is, those who dwell in heaven. [7] Also it was allowed to make war on the saints and to conquer them. And authority was given it over every tribe and people and language and nation, [8] and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain. [9] If anyone has an ear, let him hear:

[10] If anyone is to be taken captive,
to captivity he goes;
if anyone is to be slain with the sword,
with the sword must he be slain.

Here is a call for the endurance and faith of the saints.

The Second Beast

[11] Then I saw another beast rising out of the earth. It had two horns like a lamb and it spoke like a dragon. [12] It exercises all the authority of the first beast in its presence, and makes the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose mortal wound was healed. [13] It performs great signs, even making fire come down from heaven to earth in front of people, [14] and by the signs that it is allowed to work in the presence of the beast it deceives those who dwell on earth, telling them to make an image for the beast that was wounded by the sword and yet lived. [15] And it was allowed to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast might even speak and might cause those who would not worship the image of the beast to be slain. [16] Also it causes all, both small and great, both

Antichrist is only mentioned in that terminology in John's epistles. There, it references false teachers. The Beast is political power opposed to God. According to Riddlebarger, at the end of the age, the two are combined, in the Man of Lawlessness in II Thessalonians 2.

"The sin of man brings the Man of Sin" - J. Vernon McGee

Falling away comes first, then man of sin is revealed, then Christ comes

Nero, corrupt Medieval popes, Napoleon, Hitler, Stalin, etc. were antichrist types. The final is still to come

42 months is half of seven years - falls short of completion.

The Mark of the Beast is a product of fear and loss. The Mark of the Lamb is a product of faith.

"Even the Devil is God's Devil. He has no authority of its own"
-Martin Luther

rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right
hand or the forehead, [17] so that no one can buy or sell unless he
has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its
name. [18] This calls for wisdom: let the one who has understand-
ing calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a
man, and his number is 666.

What hope do the saints have?

The Lamb and the 144,000

14 Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the
Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and
his Father's name written on their foreheads. [2] And I heard a
voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the
sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound
of harpists playing on their harps, [3] and they were singing a
new song before the throne and before the four living creatures
and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the
144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. [4] It is these
who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are vir-
gins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These
have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and
the Lamb, [5] and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are
blameless.

v. 4 - only reference to formal discipleship outside of Gospels and Acts

The Messages of the Three Angels

[6] Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an
eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every
nation and tribe and language and people. [7] And he said with a
loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of
his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven
and earth, the sea and the springs of water."

Overwhelming sound of worship

The song of the Redeemed is only for believers. Only believers can offer true worship.

The Gospel never changes - only different emphases

The worship offered in Heaven would be physically and emotionally unsustainable to us in our mortal bodies

Not speaking of celibacy Compare Rev. 2:20 Sexual immorality connected with idolatry. Juxtaposed frequently in Revelation

Seven Events

1- The conflict of the serpent and the woman and her offspring (Chap. 12)

2- Beast from the sea (Rev. 13)

3- Beast from the land (Rev. 13)

4- The Lamb and 144,000 standing on Mt. Zion (Rev. 14)

5- The proclamation of the Gospel and judgment by angels (Rev. 14)

6- The Son of Man's harvest of the earth (Rev. 15)

7- Victory song (Rev. 15)

In the middle of these events is the war of worship. Unholy trinity (dragon, beast and false prophet) vs. holy trinity

Note the true Lamb doesn't arise like the Beast and False Prophet. He's just there and He's standing.

Mt. Zion is a strategic location - the redemption of God's people. Nine of 19 times in O.T. a picture of redemption. John has Psalm 2 in mind.

Intro to Babylon the Great Everyone who read this knew about Babylon

8 Another angel, a second, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is
Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of
the passion of her sexual immorality."

Babylon is called great in recognition that man has accomplished great marvels but they pale in comparison to God's grandeur

9 And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with
a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and its image and
receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, 10 he also will
drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the
cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur
in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the
Lamb. 11 And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and
ever, and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the
beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name."

12 Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who
keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus.

Verse used at my mother's funeral

13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this:
Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed
indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors,
for their deeds follow them!"

A picture of Christ overseeing the end of the age

The Harvest of the Earth

Compare the parables of Matthew 13 harvest is the end of the age

14 Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and seated on
the cloud one like a son of man, with a golden crown on his
head, and a sharp sickle in his hand. 15 And another angel came
out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to him who sat on
the cloud, "Put in your sickle, and reap, for the hour to reap has
come, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe." 16 So he who sat
on the cloud swung his sickle across the earth, and the earth
was reaped.

where we get the term ripe for judgment

17 Then another angel came out of the temple in heaven,
and he too had a sharp sickle. 18 And another angel came out

When Jesus describes His role at the end of the age, He always describes Himself as Son of Man. Even God the Son doesn't know the day or the hour - only the Father.

The authority of the Lamb - the adversary is inferior in this war of worship. The Lamb has inherent authority, the Beast and false Lamb have limited authority for a limited period of time.

The worship of the Lamb demonstrates that the adversary is doomed. He wants complete worship and doesn't get it.

The true Lamb is the voice of ultimate authority.

The only authentic worship is when we worship the way God tells us to. We don't invent ways to worship

Worship always manifests itself in obedience when it is authentic worship
We worship in three tenses
- what God has accomplished
- anticipating His return
- how it affects our life

The Good News of Judgment beginning in verse 6. A global Proclamation. An intensification of the Gospel going forth as history ends. The nature of the proclamation is to fear (reverence) God, not the Beast. Matt. 10: 28. A call for repentence. It's merciful because the end has come, but the message is still going out.

from the altar, the angel who has authority over the fire, and he called with a loud voice to the one who had the sharp sickle, "Put in your sickle and gather the clusters from the vine of the earth, for its grapes are ripe." [19] So the angel swung his sickle across the earth and gathered the grape harvest of the earth and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. [20] And the winepress was trodden outside the city, and blood flowed from the winepress, as high as a horse's bridle, for 1,600 stadia. Picture from Joel 3 and Isaiah 66

200 miles

John depicts the great harvest at the end of the age

The future is not in doubt Christ will be victorious

wheat harvest is the harvest of the redeemed. Christ is the harvester because He is the redeemer.

The Seven Angels with Seven Plagues

15 Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and amazing, seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is finished.

[2] And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire—and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. [3] And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying,

"Great and amazing are your deeds,
O Lord God the Almighty!
Just and true are your ways,
O King of the nations!
4 Who will not fear, O Lord,
and glorify your name?
For you alone are holy.
All nations will come
and worship you,
for your righteous acts have been revealed."

God does not send forth the Gospel without bearing fruit. There is a great harvest before the end. The deathbed conversion is a microcosm of this.

The final Gospel proclamation heaps up wrath for those who do not repent.

"All that God condemns is condemned completely and for eternity" - Voddie Baucham

"Death punctuates this life like a series of commas, reminding us that this life is not all we have. There is an age to come" - Voddie Baucham

"These commas are a reminder that things won't always continue as they are. At the end of the age, it will become an exclamation mark when the world as we know it is no more."

WHAT THE HARVEST OF THE EARTH TEACHES US ABOUT CHRIST

1- Christ is righteous- on white cloud (judgment requires righteousness)
2- Christ is incarnate (like a Son of Man)
3- Christ is King (golden crown)
4- Christ is Divine (eternal Son of God)
5- Christ is a Redeemer (wheat harvest)
6- Christ is Judge (sickle symbolic of judgment)
7- Christ is Longsuffering (redemptive history- 1000s of years)
8- Christ is Faithful (II Peter 3)
9- Christ is Victorious (enemies will be judged)
10- Christ is Worthy (worthy to judge and wear the crown)

5 After this I looked, and the sanctuary of the tent of witness
in heaven was opened, 6 and out of the sanctuary came the seven
angels with the seven plagues, clothed in pure, bright linen,
with golden sashes around their chests. 7 And one of the four
living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls
full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever, 8 and the
sanctuary was filled with smoke from the glory of God and
from his power, and no one could enter the sanctuary until the
seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.

The Apex of God's Wrath

The Seven Bowls of God's Wrath

16 Then I heard a loud voice from the temple telling the
seven angels, "Go and pour out on the earth the seven
bowls of the wrath of God."

Judgment on man's necessities (food and water) Progressive and comprehensive Not localized but global

2 So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the
earth, and harmful and painful sores came upon the people
who bore the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.

through food supply?

3 The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it
became like the blood of a corpse, and every living thing died
that was in the sea.

4 The third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and
the springs of water, and they became blood. 5 And I heard the
angel in charge of the waters say,

"Just are you, O Holy One, who is and who was,
for you brought these judgments.
6 For they have shed the blood of saints and
prophets,
and you have given them blood to drink.
It is what they deserve!"

not who is to come because He's come

WHAT THE FINAL HARVEST SAYS TO US

1. Our redemption is secure no matter how long it takes
2. Our number is not complete and our work is not done
3. Our Gospel will bear fruit - not dependent on us
4. Our home is not here.
5. Our hope is in Christ. If our hope is in anything else, we wouldn't have hope but despair

Chapter 16-

- Recapitulation reveals increasing intensity. In the bowls of wrath, we see finality.
- The end is not God pouring out His wrath, but the Second Coming and new heavens and new earth
- In Revelation, the idea is things are ruined and we need something else. But, before there can be recreation, there must be decreation
- A picture of the intensification of judgment we see today
- God has a right to judge the world because He created the world
- God is to be acknowledged in every sphere, not just the religious sphere
- Water is not the source of life as evolution teaches. God is.
- Man looks at nature and either worships it or thinks it is an accidental mechanism

7 And I heard the altar saying,

"Yes, Lord God the Almighty,
true and just are your judgments!"

8 The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was allowed to scorch people with fire. 9 They were scorched by the fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues. They did not repent and give him glory.

10 The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in anguish 11 and cursed the God of heaven for their pain and sores. They did not repent of their deeds.

12 The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, to prepare the way for the kings from the east. 13 And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs. 14 For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty. 15 ("Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!") 16 And they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.

The Seventh Bowl

17 The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, "It is done!" 18 And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings,

Sun intensified and yet darkness contrasted with kingdom of light

Not a reference to fall of Rome but the worldwide dominion of darkness. Not a single isolated place.

frog are reminiscent of 10 plagues in Egypt

not local

Armageddon was the site of many O.T. battles.

The most well-known concept in Revelation

Jesus grew up in sight of Armageddon.

Interesting that Israel isn't mentioned here

Limiting the Battle of Armageddon limits our ability to examine ourselves. If this is only geopolitical, what about the ungodly who aren't geopolitically against Israel?

- In the trumpet judgments, the destruction is not as comprehensive
- These judgments remind us that God provides all our needs. Ability to get wealth (Deut. 8:18)
- God has judged man before:
  - The Flood
  - Sodom and Gomorrah
  - The Exodus

  But this time, it's the end
- Every generation that has survived since Noah's flood has survived because God said "not yet". He is patient but His patience is limited.
- We see the recalcitrant nature of man's rebellion. Will not repent. Even knowing God is in charge. Romans 1: everyone knows there is a God.
- The answer for unrighteousness is not evidence. The answer for unrighteousness is the Gospel
- Wrath doesn't bring repentence
- Don't assume people's circumstances will bring them to God
- This is not OUR end. Believers experience the wrath of the Beast, but not the wrath of God
- Only 36% of Americans believe the Bible is God's world, but 59% believe the events in Revelation will come to pass (2004 survey)
- Dispensationalists have been wrong in their Armageddon predictions many times

A major problem with many dispensational interpertations of Armageddon is that Western nations are seen as being on God's side. But what about V. 14?

peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake.
19 The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath. 20 And every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found.
21 And great hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, fell from heaven on people; and they cursed God for the plague of the hail, because the plague was so severe.

Pretents claim this happened at destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD But local scale

If literal, a possibility is meteor fragments

The Beginning of the Sixth Vision: The Victory of Christ (Ch. 17-19)

The Great Prostitute and the Beast

17 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters, 2 with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk." 3 And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns. 4 The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality. 5 And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations." 6 And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus.

The alluring woman is a common picture in Proverbs

Common phrase in Revelation

John is familiar with O.T. Prophetic language and is bringing it to bear

Babylon is an astonishing mystery

When I saw her, I marveled greatly. 7 But the angel said to me, "Why do you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman, and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns that carries her. 8 The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from

V. 3 Is familiar: sounds like Rev. 13 and Rev. 12. Some have said the woman is the seducer and the beast is the totalitarian state. The woman of Rev. 12 is protected from the beast, this woman rides the beast.

There is a rich redemptive history of God drying waters
- The Ark
- Exodus
- The Jordan River in Joshua's time
- After the Babylonian captivity to judge Israel's captors

"The removal of the barrier allows the agents of judgment to enter" - Riddlebarger

- It's interesting that Armageddon is more about the nations fighting God than the nations fighting each other
- There is a real sense in how we view Armageddon is how we view the world
- Zechariah 14 is in view, and references the Mt. of Olives and Jerusalem
- Is this Satan's final assault on God's people globally, crushed at Christ's return, or a literal geopolitical battle?
- We're engaged in a spiritual battle (Ephesians 6.12) and taking geopolitical sides always divides the people of God and causes believers to align with a flawed geopolitical entity
- At the same time, Ezekiel 38-39 may be a description of Armageddon and it sounds very geopolitical
- Spiritual battle is more real and significant than real battle

REV. 17 is a spiritual perspective of the Fall of Babylon. REV. 18 is an economic and political perspective.
- sexual immorality, covetousness and idolatry are connected in New Testament

The spirit of antichrist is talked about in the plural. At the same time, there is a Man of Lawlessness (II Thess. 2)

the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come. [9] This calls for a mind with wisdom: the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated; [10] they are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he does come he must remain only a little while. [11] As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to destruction. [12] And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast. [13] These are of one mind, and they hand over their power and authority to the beast. [14] They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful."

[15] And the angel said to me, "The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages. [16] And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire, [17] for God has put it into their hearts to carry out his purpose by being of one mind and handing over their royal power to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. [18] And the woman that you saw is the great city that has dominion over the kings of the earth."

The "is not" period of the Beast is the church age (millennium)

past = was

death = is not

resurrection = is to come

The "is to come" is end of age

three

four

not an isolated incident

The 10 horns are at the end of the age

God is in control of everything. Divine Providence

The Fall of Babylon

18 After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was made bright with his glory. [2] And he called out with a mighty voice,

Babylon was extremely wealthy. Even today, wealth and trade has been connected. Maritime location facilitates trade.

Who is Babylon?
- Some say Rome
- Some say Roman Catholic Church
- Some say a future Babylonian Empire will arise in Iraq (popular when Saddam Hussein ruled)
- She has a timeless and universal appeal. She is called Babylon, but the historic nation is gone. It's based on charactaristics. A long line of powers have been Babylon the Great. Babylon appears to be multi-national-not limited to one particular nation. She is the anti-New Jerusalem (compare Rev. 21) Babylon represents all things ungodly, Jerusalem represents all things godly.

The world in John's writings is the world system opposed to God (see I John)

The world wants to define what is beautiful for us
- What the world offers is alluring
- What the world offers has strings attached (no Christ)
- What the world offers is inferior.
- What the world offers is temporary
- The Prostitute wants us to think the New Jerusalem is limiting but the opposite is true.

"Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!
She has become a dwelling place for demons,
a haunt for every unclean spirit,
a haunt for every unclean bird,
a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast.
3 For all nations have drunk
the wine of the passion of her sexual
immorality,
and the kings of the earth have committed
immorality with her,
and the merchants of the earth have grown rich
from the power of her luxurious living."

4 Then I heard another voice from heaven saying,

"Come out of her, my people,
lest you take part in her sins,
lest you share in her plagues;
5 for her sins are heaped high as heaven,
and God has remembered her iniquities.
6 Pay her back as she herself has paid back others,
and repay her double for her deeds;
mix a double portion for her in the cup she mixed.
7 As she glorified herself and lived in luxury,
so give her a like measure of torment and
mourning,
since in her heart she says,
'I sit as a queen,
I am no widow,
and mourning I shall never see.'

Babylon doesn't offer freedom and independence to worship God but freedom and independence from God

The Beast is playing God. The Beast presents himself as a type of Christ. The most dangerous lie is a lie based on truth.

WHO ARE THE SEVEN KINGS OF REV. 17?
- Some believe Caesars up until Domitian, but the problem is there were 12. Combined tenures are a possibility. This view is popular with preterists
- Some believe seven empires that have oppressed God's people (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome and a future kingdom)
- We know mountains symbolize power and seven is completeness

It is not clear what the eighth means. Perhaps an excess of power exerted (above complete).

Whatever the eighth is, it is a political power at the end of the age like we've never seen before. All angles point in the same direction: at the end of the age, there is an overwhelming power and authority opposed to Christ and His church. There is a temporary nature to this power.

8 For this reason her plagues will come in a
single day,
death and mourning and famine,
and she will be burned up with fire;
for mighty is the Lord God who has
judged her."

9 And the kings of the earth, who committed sexual immorality and lived in luxury with her, will weep and wail over her when they see the smoke of her burning. 10 They will stand far off, in fear of her torment, and say,

"Alas! Alas! You great city,
you mighty city, Babylon!
For in a single hour your judgment has come."

11 And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn for her, since no one buys their cargo anymore, 12 cargo of gold, silver, jewels, pearls, fine linen, purple cloth, silk, scarlet cloth, all kinds of scented wood, all kinds of articles of ivory, all kinds of articles of costly wood, bronze, iron and marble, 13 cinnamon, spice, incense, myrrh, frankincense, wine, oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and slaves, that is, human souls.

14 "The fruit for which your soul longed
has gone from you,
and all your delicacies and your splendors
are lost to you,
never to be found again!"

Many believe the greatest period of Christian martyrdom is in the future

The hymn "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" is about this passage. This has always been real for the church.

Implications:
- The rise of evil kings at the end of the age are not the fault of the church
- Being blessed in a nation that acknowledges God is not because of the church
- Be careful with Americanized arrogance
- There is no nation on earth exempt from the war against God
- There is no safe place from persecution
- The victory of Christ is never in doubt. This is not a battle of two equals.

Rome is the quintessential example of the Beast

Why would the beast turn on the harlot? It's his nature

In John's day, there were two types of prostitutes:
- temple prostitutes
- prostitutes like we have today

"What should be apparent to those who read this prophecy is that the glories of the city of man are superficial and fleeting"
-Kim Riddlebarger

15 The merchants of these wares, who gained wealth from her,
will stand far off, in fear of her torment, weeping and mourning aloud,

16 "Alas, alas, for the great city
that was clothed in fine linen,
in purple and scarlet,
adorned with gold,
with jewels, and with pearls!
17 For in a single hour all this wealth has been laid waste."

And all shipmasters and seafaring men, sailors and all whose trade is on the sea, stood far off 18 and cried out as they saw the smoke of her burning,

"What city was like the great city?"

19 And they threw dust on their heads as they wept and mourned, crying out,

"Alas, alas, for the great city
where all who had ships at sea
grew rich by her wealth!
For in a single hour she has been laid waste.
20 Rejoice over her, O heaven,
and you saints and apostles and prophets,
for God has given judgment for you against her!"

21 Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying,

"True beauty is only found in the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ"
-Kim Riddleberger

Christ dies for His bride, but the Beast kills the harlot (contrast)

Theological Realities:
- God always uses sinful creatures to accomplish His purposes (such as Babylon judging Israel in O.T.)
- He doesn't have another option
- God uses the sinful powers of the world against each other

Practical Takeaways:
- We must resist the harlot and the beast
- Resisting does not mean escaping from the world (in not of)
- Since the Harlot and Beast are both counterfeits, avoiding everything they stand for would mean avoiding much of what God has made for His glory and our joy (not all pleasure is bad)
- We must warn those who love the Harlot and serve the Beast (don't just condemn them). We tell them what they should do, not what they shouldn't do
- engage the culture at certain points where God is defied openly
- celebrate and highlight the differences between worship and idolatry
- we must believe there is hope. We're reminded again and again in Revelation
- our call is not to just know that Christ is the answer but to walk in that reality

"So will Babylon the great city be thrown down with
violence,
and will be found no more;
22 and the sound of harpists and musicians, of flute
players and trumpeters,
will be heard in you no more,
and a craftsman of any craft
will be found in you no more,
and the sound of the mill
will be heard in you no more,
23 and the light of a lamp
will shine in you no more,
and the voice of bridegroom and bride
will be heard in you no more,
for your merchants were the great ones of the earth,
and all nations were deceived by your sorcery.
24 And in her was found the blood of prophets and of
saints, New Testament Old Testament
and of all who have been slain on earth."
not necessarily believers

Rejoicing in Heaven

19 After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out,

"Hallelujah!
Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,
2 for his judgments are true and just;
for he has judged the great prostitute
who corrupted the earth with her immorality,
and has avenged on her the blood of his servants."

v. 21- Throwing a large stone into the sea is parallel with Jeremiah 51:63-64. The long list of cessation of activities is similar to Jeremiah 25:10. If this is to be on a global scale, it must coincide with the end of the world as we know it and Christ's return. Otherwise, how could it be that this civilization would never be succeeded by another?

Angels and the Old and New Testament saints often are discussed together in community in Revelation.

CHAPTER 19
- The final war brings to a climax all wars God has waged on behalf of His people and consummates the triumph of Christ at the Cross
- Some have interperted the imagery as the spread of Christ's rule through the spread of the Gospel. This view is popular with postmillennialists. But its clear in context this is a cycle of judgments leading to the Second Coming.
- The wars of earthly armies leave unjust suffering. But this war is utterly just because of the justice of its Leader

3 Once more they cried out,

"Hallelujah!
The smoke from her goes up forever and ever."

4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who was seated on the throne, saying, "Amen. Hallelujah!" 5 And from the throne came a voice saying,

"Praise our God,
all you his servants,
you who fear him,
small and great."

The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

6 Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out,

"Hallelujah!
For the Lord our God
the Almighty reigns.
7 Let us rejoice and exult
and give him the glory,
for the marriage of the Lamb has come,
and his Bride has made herself ready;
8 it was granted her to clothe herself
with fine linen, bright and pure"—

for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

- Heaven stands open here, not just to John, but to the world of humanity. Apocalypse in true sense. Unveiling.
- Aspects of the vision speak to Christ's worthiness and authority.
  - eyes like blazing fire - ability to see and judge the heart, not just outward appearances (Isaiah 11: 3-5, I Samuel 16: 7)
  - Crowns indicate kingly authority
  - the name Word of God reminds us of God's power over creation (John 1). John likes to call Jesus the Word.

- The armies of Heaven could of course include the Angels, but also the saints of all eras. The oldest prophecy in Scripture is the Lord coming with ten thousands of His saints by Enoch, seventh from Adam, as recorded in Jude. The return of Christ was in view from earliest times.

- The Bible as a whole indicates the Second Coming is for the salvation and renewal of the world, as well as for destruction to make way for the purity of the new world.

[9] And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God." [10] Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God." For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. ← Key verse

The Rider on a White Horse

[11] Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. [12] His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself. [13] He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. [14] And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses. [15] From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. [16] On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.

[17] Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, "Come, gather for the great supper of God, [18] to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great." [19] And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army. [20] And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet

Exactly like Ezekiel 38-39 why we believe it to be the same event

Several issues of justice addressed:
- God vindicates the saints
- Executes final judgment on Satan
- Pronounces a comprehensive judgment, no item of the past escapes His attention.

WHO ARE THE MARTYRS OF REV. 20 REIGNING WITH CHRIST? Options
1. The martyrs who will assist in the final judgment, as promised in Rev. 2-3
2. All God's people. The first resurrection brings Jesus into the hearts of all believers.
3. An angelic court
4. Angels who represent believers
5. Exalted believers who reign along with angels

Most likely, a combination, including all believers who have resisted the Beast's system. But there is an emphasis on literal martyrdom, such as crown of life for Church in Smyrna, because this honor is particularly meaningful to them.

A GOOD QUESTION...
- Are nations part of the creation ordinance? The nations are destroyed in Rev. 19. Would there again be nations in the new heavens and new earth? Especially since human division seems to be a judgment (Genesis 10-11)

Everyone has a relationship with Christ. Is He your deliverer or judge?

Satan's millennial binding is limited and specific, not comprehensive, and implies the Gospel thrives among the nations

who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. 21 And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.

The Thousand Years

These verses are considered among the most difficult in Revelation

Note little specificity about life in the millennium

20 Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding in his hand the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain. 2 And he seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years, 3 and threw him into the pit, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he might not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were ended. After that he must be released for a little while.

Word for nations is ethnos

4 Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed. Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. 5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. 6 Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

Practical Application
1. Take advantage of open door
2. This door won't always be open. No second chance.
3. We are guaranteed success
4. Christ's rule and reign must be expressed in me

The text does not say Sin is gone or Satan is completely powerless

How is the Great Commission accomplished unless Rev. 20:2 happens during church age

Whatever happens after the thousand years is what Satan was previously bound from

The Defeat of Satan

7 And when the thousand years are ended, Satan will be released from his prison 8 and will come out to deceive the

The word thrones appears 37 times in Rev. Always heavenly.

Premillennialists are usually pessimistic about the future
Postmillennialists are optimistic about the future
Amillennialists take a balanced view

- Why such an emphasis on martyrs when discussing the end of the age? Because martyrdom has been a common Christian experience in history and the reigning martyrs is a sign of Christ's victory
- Why would Rev. 20 be a recapitulation from a different perspective? Because the end already came in the previous chapter. Rev. 20 focuses on the destiny of Satan
- There are respected Christian scholars holding each of the three millennial views (premillennial, amillennial and postmillennial), and the creeds allow for liberty on this
- Why dispensation premillennialism predominates in U.S.
  - Scofield study Bible
  - Rise of Dallas Theological Seminary
  - The Bible college movement
  - The Zionist movement
  - Popular literature (Late Great Planet Earth and Left Behind)

- The hope of the nations isn't democracy. It is the spread of the Gospel.
- Millennial model issues we need to address:
  - Where we are in prophetic history
  - What is the millennium and what is its nature
  - When is the millennium? Before or after Second Coming?
  - Amillennialists don't discount the millennium but believe it to be symbolic of church age
  - The nature of Satan's binding (all evil or just restriction on Gospel)

"Whoever believes in the Divine inspiration of the Holy Scriptures must hope that the religion of Jesus shall prevail throughout the earth" - John Quincy Adams

Premillennialists claim this is another Gog and Magog than Ezekiel 38-39

REVELATION 20:9 Amillennial view much simpler.

Compare Genesis 10 78 why we would believe Russia has an end-time role

What happens to the nations

nations that are at the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them for battle; their number is like the sand of the sea. 9 And they marched up over the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, but fire came down from heaven and consumed them, 10 and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

large population like days of Noah

other translations say are

The true war to end all wars

We've seen this war a number of times in Revelation

Even the preterist "Message from Patmos" saw this as future

Judgment Before the Great White Throne

11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. 13 And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. 14 Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Hell was made for the Devil and his angels (Matt. 25:41)

This is why Jude says twice dead Jude 1:12

This is II Peter 3 physical end of the earth

The fire is most likely spiritual in nature because we are spirit beings. Both heat and darkness involved in this torment

When Christ has the fullness of His reward, He will return

The New Heaven and the New Earth

21 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell

Proof this is a new creation The sea speaks of judgment (Noah)

Why wouldn't Gog and Magog be symbolic like Babylon? Because there is no typology about Gog and Magog in O.T. history. Russia wasn't a nation until 1000 AD

Reasons to Believe Amillennialism:

1. N.T. seems to speak of two ages (present age and age to come - nothing intermediate)
2. Revelation is a book of symbols, so it doesn't have to be a literal thousand years
3. We are called to take the Gospel to every people group, which matches Satan's binding
4. Satan's final release makes no sense 1,000 years after the Second Coming
5. The restrainer in II Thess. 2 could be Satan's binding

We're guilty of thinking that only a few people will be in Hell and only a few people will be in Heaven. A lot more people are going to both places than we think.

WHY HELL ISN'T SYMBOLIC

- Since Revelation is a book of symbols, some have suggested Hell is just symbolic and not literal. Here is why Christians believe in a literal Hell
  - Hell is not talked about just in Rev. Pictures of Hell are found in non-symbolic parts of Scripture (Gospels, etc.)
  - God is a God of justice and even we believe the wicked such as Hitler need punishment beyond this life
  - If we reject eternal justice, our only alternative is temporal justice (avenging ourselves)
  - We sin against infinite holiness
  - God manifests His righteousness in the destruction of the wicked

THREE TENSES OF GOD'S SALVATION
- I was saved from the penalty of sin
- I am being saved from the power of sin
- I will be saved from the presence of sin

with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will
be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from
their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be
mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things
have passed away."

Fulfillment of man's chief end: to glorify God and enjoy him forever

5 And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am
making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these
words are trustworthy and true." 6 And he said to me, "It is done!
I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To
the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without
payment. 7 The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I
will be his God and he will be my son. 8 But as for the cowardly, the
faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral,
sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake
that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death."

There is a parallel between the whore of Babylon and New Jerusalem. Same intro as 17:1

The New Jerusalem

9 Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven
bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying,
"Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb." 10 And
he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and
showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven
from God, 11 having the glory of God, its radiance like a most
rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. 12 It had a great, high
wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on
the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel
were inscribed— 13 on the east three gates, on the north three
gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates.
14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them
were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

This dictates how we should see this passage

1. the bride reflects God's love for His people
2. the bride reflects God's glory and holiness
3. the bride reflects God's redeeming grace
4. the bride reflects God's faithfulness and protection of His people
5. the bride reflects God's beauty and perfections

SOME NOTES ON BIBLICAL VIEW OF DEATH
- Death is always an enemy and never a friend in Scripture
- Death is not the end of life. No passive existence after death
- Death changes our view of the current battle we are engaged in

We are often embracing a pagan view of death. The idea of a passive afterlife.

v. 8 - list very similar to I Corinthians 6:9-11

Except for full preterists, all Christians believe Rev. 21-22 is future. This is a picture of the bride of Christ in her final state.

Do you normally talk about the church in relation to Rev. 2-3 or Rev. 21? Normally, we do the former. But for eternity, it is the latter.

As we read about spiritual warfare in Revelation, there is not a single indication it is the church's fault. The problem isn't that we see something wrong in the church and correct it, but we never talk about God's radiant bride

Ezekiel's temple may well reflect the New Jerusalem, especially since it follows the Gog and Magog invasion (which seems to be Armageddon)

The realities John is seeing is beyond anything we could understand

15 And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of
gold to measure the city and its gates and walls. 16 The city lies
foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured
the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and
height are equal. 17 He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by
human measurement, which is also an angel's measurement.
18 The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold,
like clear glass. 19 The foundations of the wall of the city were
adorned with every kind of jewel. The first was jasper, the sec-
ond sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, 20 the fifth
onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth
beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh
jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. 21 And the twelve gates were
twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the
street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

22 And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord
God the Almighty and the Lamb. 23 And the city has no need of
sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light,
and its lamp is the Lamb. 24 By its light will the nations walk,
and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, 25 and
its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night
there. 26 They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the
nations. 27 But nothing unclear will ever enter it, nor anyone
who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are
written in the Lamb's book of life.

The New Jerusalem uses perfect dimensions

- the best materials are used

- the other perfect cube in Scripture is the holy of holies

- the only way you can see yourself as part of New Jerusalem is to be a believer in Jesus

Everything and everyone in the city is holy

Jesus is the true Temple John 2:21 and our bodies are the temple of the living God I Cor. 6:19-20

No sun and moon to mark time because time has given way to eternity. And sin has given way to righteousness.

Fear has given way to safety.

The River of Life

22 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of
life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God
and of the Lamb 2 through the middle of the street of the city;

"The good news of the Gospel is that God takes people from Babylon to the New Jerusalem"
-Voddie Baucham

"Beloved, now we are the children of God, and it has not yet appeared what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we will be like Him" - I John 3.2

- The dimensions of the New Jerusalem tell us there will be more Christians than we could ever fathom. If taken literally, there would be space for 20 billion to live comfortably.

- Dispensationalists claim eternity will have a Jew/Gentile divide. But this seems to contradict the rest of Scripture. Unity in the history of redemption. Those with the covenantal view don't believe that the church has replaced Israel but they are one in Christ.

- What is to stop the story of redemption from starting over again? Why won't we fall again? The wall symbolizes God's eternal separation between those inside and outside. The eternal security of believers. The guarding of angels reminds us of the closure of the Garden of Eden (Gen. 3)

- What do we take away from the New Jerusalem?
  1. as a member of the Body of Christ, think on these things. This is what is being formed in you.
  2. remember this when you talk about the church.
  3. when you see deficiencies in the church, look at your own failings too. Focus on how you can be furthur conformed to Christ's image.
  4. The New Jerusalem won't be a particular nation or ethnicity. No nation is the totality of the people of God. The New Jerusalem is not about a geopolitical entity. Hebrews 13:14.

"This doesn't sound like a fairy tale. Fairy tales sound like this. John's vision is the original and came first" - Clay Jones

also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3 No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. 4 They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. 5 And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

Jesus Is Coming

6 And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place."

7 "And behold, I am coming soon. Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

8 I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, 9 but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."

Note contrast with Daniel. Revelation is being fulfilled now.

10 And he said to me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near. 11 Let the evildoer still do evil, and the filthy still be filthy, and the righteous still do right, and the holy still be holy." Times will be more polarized

12 "Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

"God gains glory through diversity because there is no single human being or single culture that can capture the beauty of Almighty God" - Voddie Baucham

An over-realized eschatology is dangerous because we must recognize the not yet - what God has prepared for those who love Him

A CITY WITHOUT A TEMPLE

All cities believe in some god and have symbols of worship. The most magnificent buildings in the world are temples, cathedrals and churches. Even the U.S. has a National Cathedral. The temple of temples was in Jerusalem. But no temple in New Jerusalem.

The temple reminded Israel of the distance between them and God and the difference between Israel and other nations. It was a reminder of our need for forgiveness. There is no need for a temple in New Jerusalem because there is no distance between man and God. There is no need of forgiveness since there is no more sin and there is no distinction between people anymore.

There are no sacred places but places where sacred people gather

1. The scandal of a city without a temple
2. The consolation of a city without a temple (note God and the Lamb are one temple - deity of Christ)
3. The beauty of a city without a temple (the glory of God is the beauty of this city. Isaiah 60:19)
4. The citizens of a city without a temple (we will be glorified - not like Adam)

There are many people who want heaven but don't want Jesus or the church. But heaven is all about communion with Christ and His church for eternity.

John didn't come up with an allegory like Pilgrim's Progress. God showed him what was to come. Stamp of authenticity.

Last list of sins in the Bible

Dogs - anything sinful
Sorcerers - pharmakeia
Sexually immoral - any sex sin
Murderers - sin against man
Idolatry - sin against God

14 Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may
have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city
by the gates. 15 Outside are the dogs and sorcerers and the sex-
ually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who
loves and practices falsehood.

Revelation is for the churches

16 "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these
things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of
David, the bright morning star."

Last O.T. character mentioned in the Bible

17 The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come." And let the one who
hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the
one who desires take the water of life without price.

Always a reference to water with Christ's judgment but here a sign of nourishment and bringing in fullness

18 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of
this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the
plagues described in this book, 19 and if anyone takes away from
the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his
share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described
in this book.

An ominous warning to deceivers and heretics. Also how we know there isn't a new revelation from God

Both the Torah and N.T. end with this warning

The issue at stake: authority of Divine revelation

20 He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming
soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Essential doctrine

21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.

- Two words repeated at the end of Revelation: Amen and Come
- There is to be a twofold understanding of Christ's return
  - to redeem His bride
  - to judge the wicked
- note the anxious spirit of the Bride and the spirit
- v. 17 is often used as an evangelistic cry, but it's not the most natural reading due to audience, tone and tenor. Instead, it is a cry for Christ's return.
- the eagerness is for our redemption (Romans 8) and for things to be set right. We will not have utopia on earth
- it's wrong for us to hope for a humanistic utopia or to believe there ever was a utopia. Our hope is Christ's coming.

WHAT WE SEE IN REV. 22:12-16

1. Christ is the judge of the world
   - His judgment is imminent, but imminent is not how we count time (II Peter 3)
   - All of us could die at any moment, so eternity is imminent personally as well.
   - His judgment is warranted. Recompense translated as reward or payment
   - For a deed to be righteous, it must be the right thing, done the right way, for the right reason. That which is not of faith is sin.
   - The judgment is individual "each one". We can't be righteous for others
2. Christ is the judge because He is God. Note the phrase "I Am". O.T. significance and I Am statements in John's Gospel
   - Because He is God, He can reward the righteous (v. 14). This is the seventh blessing in Revelation.
     - The first Adam was excluded from the Tree of Life. The last Adam brings us back to us. No longer under the federal headship of first Adam
   - One word describes the judgment of the unsaved: "outside". All-encompassing terms used for sin.
3. A reiteration of the deity of Christ
   - You've been warned by this book and rest of Bible (last warning)

NOTES ON THE RELEASE AND DEFEAT OF SATAN (Rev. 20: 7-10)

- We see this battle in the Old Testament in:
  - Ezekiel 38-39
  - Zechariah 12-14
  - Zephaniah 3
- John helps us to interpert Ezekiel, since the New Testament has progressive revelation. John knows more.
- Universalized prophecy- we realize God's enemies and God's people are broader than we thought
- This isn't some nations against other nations, but all nations against God and His people
- There will be great wrath poured out against the people of God in every nation at the end of the age (mans wrath not God's wrath)
- We don't believe this is after Jesus coming, since Jesus is not a failed earthly king
- God doesn't use nations to judge other nations this time - a supernatural judgment
- There is no neutrality in this war - either for me or against me
- This period of rebellion is a short while compared to the millennium, but time details lacking. A few amillennialists speculate it began 19th century (philosophies, etc.)
- What would the world be like when Satan is released? Probably like the world before He was bound
- Job connects at least some natural disasters to Satan. Perhaps this is in view here too?

Outline

Chap. 1-3	Seven Churches - in the form of a circuit. Church in every age.
Chap. 4-5	Heaven-focused. Not like ordinary epistle.
Chap. 6-7	Judgment. Common to every age with no details.
Chap. 8-11	Sounding of Trumpets. Parallel seven seals.
Chap. 12-14	No obvious continuity. Male child (Christ) vs. the dragon (the Devil).
Chap. 15-16	Seven bowls.
Chap. 17-19	Destruction of Babylon, Beast and False Prophet
Chap. 20-22	Final judgment and eternal state

WHAT WE GAIN FROM II PETER 3

- God is waiting for all to be saved
- It's not long for God
- Connection with global judgment in Genesis
- It hasn't been this long because something is preventing Jesus from coming back

"The world is ripe for demolition - overripe - and it is only God's indescribable patience that is still waiting till the end"
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer

What We Gain from Book

1. Glory of the Triune God
2. Relevance and reliability of the whole Bible
3. Sovreignty of God
4. The Reality of Suffering
5. The Inevitability and Severity of God's Judgment
6. The Certainty of Christ's Return
7. The Consummation of Redemptive History (Rev. 22 is back to Genesis 2)

- "The Book of Revelation clearly reminds us that God is Sovreign over all human history and that He will do as He said and will turn human sin and suffering into good. Thus, the redemptive story takes us from Creation to the fall to Redemption to a new Creation. God will not only save His people but He will save all of creation"
  - Kim Riddlebarger

- A lot of people will only come to church if Revelation is taught. An incredibly evangelistic book.

- Angels referenced 67 times in Revelation
- Revelation's worldview is that the World is divided between saved and lost. At the center of the division: what we do with Jesus Christ

- Because Revelation is given as signs and visions, we interpert it differently than the rest of Scripture. For instance, Genesis is given as history. The Gospels are an orderly account. Revelation is a different genre.
- Understand Revelation symbolically unless told to take it literally
- The nature of this book is worshipful Brings praise, glory and honor to God

Seven Beatitudes in Revelation

- Rev. 1:3
- Rev. 14:13
- Rev. 16:15
- Rev. 19:9
- Rev. 20:6
- Rev. 22:7
- Rev. 22:14

- "Who God is helps understand who we are" - Voddie Baucham

- "there is no place where Christ does not ryle. There is no one that Christ does not rule" - Voddie Baucham

- "what Christ has done has turned us in to worshippers" - Voddie Baucham

- The Exodus is a motif of God's deliverance of His people. In New Testament, God's deliverance from sin

- Redemption for the purpose of worship

- We are not held captive by any historical view of Revelation or how any ministry or teacher expounds Revelation.

- If you believe Revelation 4 has the rapture, chapters 6-19 have nothing to do with you. It limits the encouragement this book provides.

- Revelation is not limited to one generation to benefit from: not John's generation only (preterism) and not the final judgment only

FOUR TESTS TO KNOW IF YOU'RE IN THE FAITH

1. Believing Jesus is who He claimed to be
2. Loving God's people
3. Keeping God's commandments
4. Overcoming the world

These tests are found in Revelation 7: The Great Multitude and I John

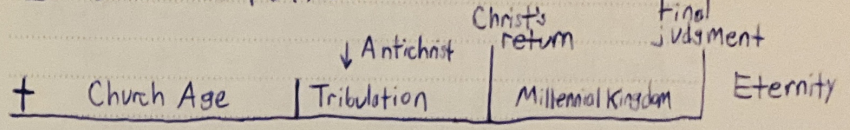
"As we mature in Christ, our other identities become less and less prominent" - Voddie Baucham

"As we grow in Christ, it becomes less important who are ancestors were in the flesh, and it becomes more important to love our brothers and sisters in Christ"

Premillennialism and Amillenialism both foresee a future tribulation. The former emphasizes details, the latter the big picture. Postmillennialism has another ending.

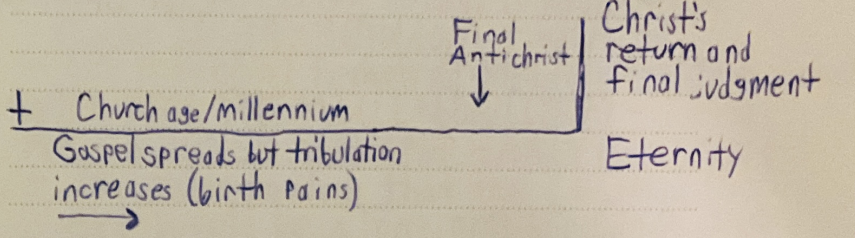
HISTORIC PREMILLENIALISM

Early Church Fathers



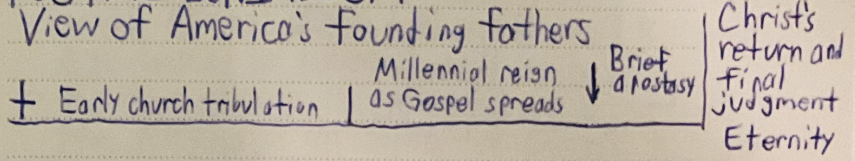
AMILLENIALISM

First proclaimed by Augustine. Common view through most of history.



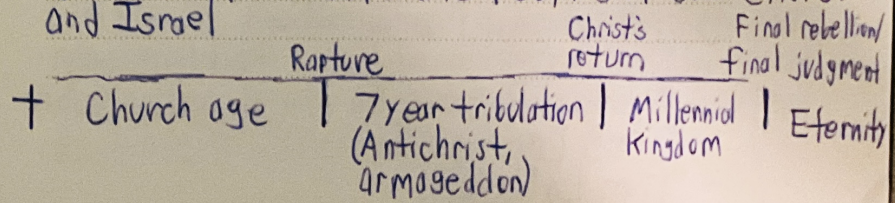
POSTMILLENIALISM

View of America's founding fathers



DISPENSATIONAL PREMILLENIALISM

Common since 19th century. Most complicated and based on two seperate peoples of God - church and Israel



PERIODS OF POPULARITY OF MILLENIAL MODELS

- Historic premillinialism - 33-400 AD
- Amillenialism - 400- AD - Present
- Postmillenialism - 1700-1900
- Dispensational Premillinialism - 1850-present

TODAY'S PROPONENTS

Historic Premillinialism
- John Piper
- Albert Mohler
- Michael Brown
- G.E. Ladd
- Francis Schaefer
- C.H. Spurgeon

Amillinialism
- Kim Riddlebarger
- G.K. Beale
- Pope Benedict XVI
- Voddie Baucham
- Sam Storms
- Anthony Hoekema
- Eastern Orthodox
- Conservative Lutheran

Postmillinialism
- R.C. Sproul

Dispensational Premillinialism
- Chuck Smith
- Adrian Rogers
- Greg Laurie
- Tim LaHaye
- David Jeremiah
- Hal Lindsey
- Jonathan Cahn

CONCERNS WITH PREMILLENIALISM

- Why would national identities be so strong during Christ's physical rule?
- how could the nations revolt against Christ's rule?
- how can the presence of sin during Christ's reign be explained?
- how can the second fall of man in Rev. 20 be explained?
- how can people in physical bodies exist after Jesus' return and why is their procreation in the age to come (Luke 20:34-36)
- the millennial temple creates problems (Jesus sacrifice)

WHY WAS PREMILLENIALISM ABANDONED IN THE EARLY CHURCH?

- The understanding that the Christian era would be a long period and wouldn't always be marked by persecution
- Some in the early church became unbalanced with carnal views of what the kingdom age would be like
- As the church lost its Jewish roots, the emphasis on a literal future kingdom age waned
- Amillenialism built up the organized church, emphasizing a current reign

Originally, amillenialists believed the here and now millenium would be a literal thousand years. Augustine wrote of this. This view declined as time progressed.

MILLENIAL DAY-AGE THEORY POPULAR IN EARLY CHURCH
- Some took a day as a thousand years in II Peter 3.8 as a formula for recorded human history

Day 1 -	Creation and fall	4000-3000 BC
Day 2 -	Global flood, Tower of Babel	3000-2000 BC
Day 3 -	Abraham, Exodus, Judges	2000-1000 BC
Day 4 -	David, Israelite kings, captivity, intertestamental period	1000 BC - Christ
Day 5 -	Time of Christ, early church	33-1033 AD
Day 6 -	Later church age	1033-2033
Day 7 -	The never-ending reign of Christ	2033-

This view presupposes a young earth Creationist view

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What Is Postmillennialism? This is what America's Founders believed

The main tenets of the postmillennial position as it was generally held during the nineteenth century can be outlined as follows:

1. Through the preaching of the gospel and dramatic outpourings of the Holy Spirit Christian missions and evangelism will attain remarkable success, and the church will enjoy an unprecedented period of numerical expansion and spiritual vitality.
2. This period of spiritual prosperity, the millennium, understood as a long period of time, is to be characterized by conditions of increasing peace and economic well-being in the world as a result of the growing influence of Christian truth.
3. The millennium will also be characterized by the conversion of large numbers of ethnic Jews to the Christian faith (Rom. 11:25–26).
4. At the end of the millennial period there will be a brief period of apostasy and sharp conflict between Christian and evil forces (Rev. 20:7–10).
5. Finally and simultaneously there will occur the visible return of Christ, the resurrection of the righteous and the wicked, the final judgment, and the revelation of the new heavens and the new earth.[1]